

12. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 38 which is a

D1 treatment for autoimmune diseases.

13. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 38 which is a

treatment for viral diseases.

25 26. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 40 which is a
treatment for inflammatory diseases.

D2 26 27. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 40 which is a
treatment for autoimmune diseases.

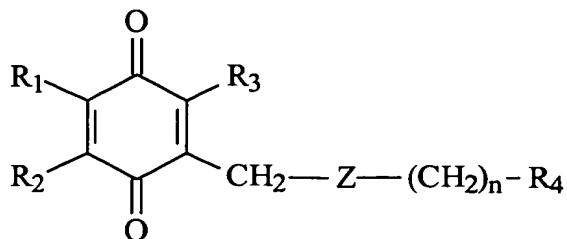
27 28. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 40 which is a
treatment for viral diseases.

D3 28 29. (Twice Amended) A method for treating diseases caused by the activation
of NF- κ B comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by
the following general formula (1):

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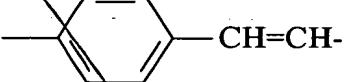
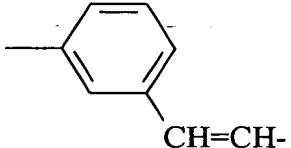
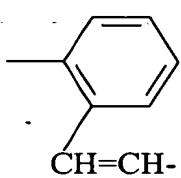
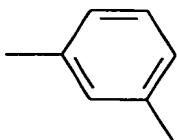
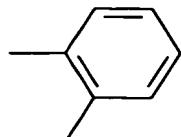


wherein

Sub 1391
R₁, R₂, and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is



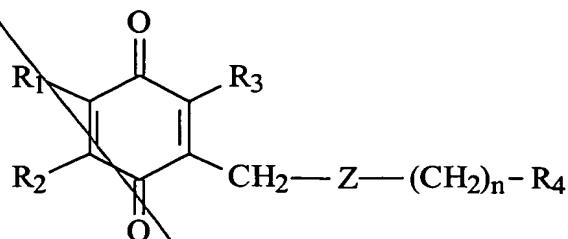
and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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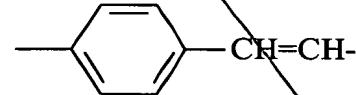
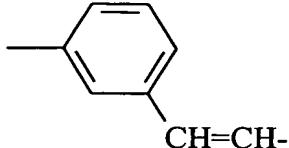
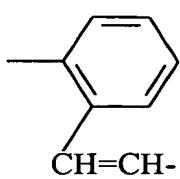
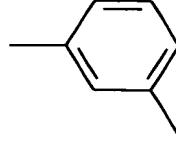
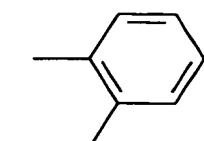
~~29~~ ~~30~~ ~~41.~~ (Twice Amended) A method for treating diseases caused by the excessive production of TNF- α comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is



and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

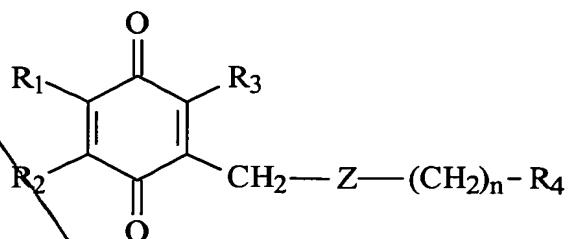
or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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Please add the following new claims 42-43:

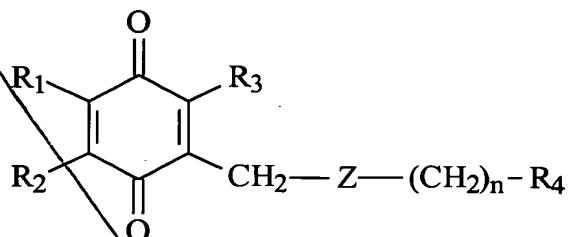
--42. A method for preventing diseases caused by the activation of NF- κ B comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

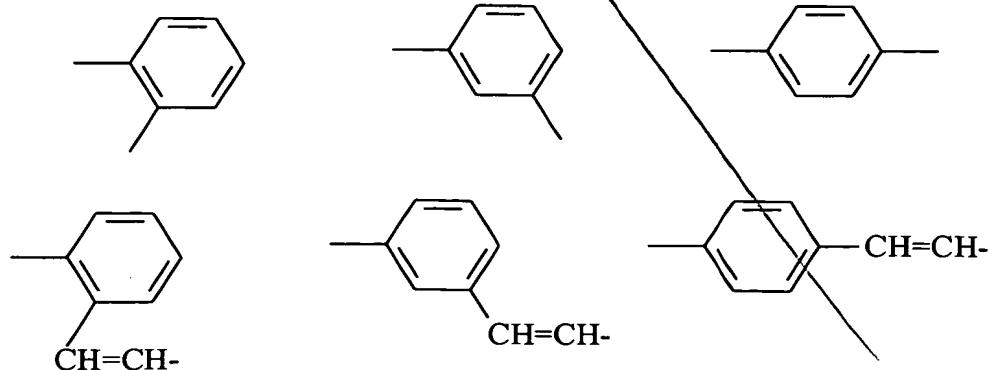
43. A method for preventing diseases caused by the excessive production of TNF- α comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is



D5

and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

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